

## Columbia River Technical Management Team

July 13, 2016

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator: Emily Plummer, Notes: Tory Hines, DS Consulting

*The following Facilitator's Summary is intended to capture basic discussion, decisions and actions, as well as point out future actions or issues that may need further discussion at upcoming meetings. This summary is not intended to be the "record" of the meeting, only a reminder for TMT members.*

### Dworshak Dam Operations

Steve Hall, COE-NWW, reported on current water temperatures in the Snake River and Clearwater River. Due to heavy precipitation in the region, water temperatures in the Clearwater River at Orofino dropped to 60 degrees Fahrenheit on July 10th. Water temperatures are considerably cooler compared to last week, where temperatures in the Clearwater were in excess of 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, discharges out of Dworshak were reduced from 10.5kcfs to 7.5kcfs because model results indicated declining water temperatures. Since July 6<sup>th</sup>, discharges out of Dworshak have been held at an even flow of 7.5kcfs. The latest model run (July 12<sup>th</sup>) shows Lower Granite tailwater temperatures continuing to decline; water temperatures are expected to return to more normal levels outside of the 10-day forecast.

Currently, the Corps plans to maintain an outflow of 7.5kcfs for the next week for two reasons: to meet the end of August elevation target of 1,535ft as stated in the BiOp; and because model results indicate water temperatures will not exceed 67 degrees Fahrenheit within the modeled timeframe. The Corps will continue to conserve water in to August; an increase in outflow will likely occur before the end of July.

Paul Wagner, NOAA, stated that Dworshak operations were discussed at FPAC and FPAC members are supportive of the operations. Russ Kiefer, ID, shared with TMT that water temperatures on the lower Salmon River at Whitebird are following a similar trend and are in the 60 degree Fahrenheit range. Russ is optimistic that cooling water temperatures will provide good migration and conversion conditions for Sockeye in the Snake River.

- **ACTION:** The Corps will maintain a flat discharge of 7.5kcfs out of Dworshak Dam until conditions warrant a change in outflow. An update will be provided at the next TMT meeting.

**The next TMT meeting will be a face-to-face meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.**

**Columbia River Regional Forum**  
**TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM Official Minutes**

**July 13, 2016**

Minutes: Pat Vivian

**1. Introduction**

Representatives of the Umatilla Tribe, Washington, BPA, BOR, NOAA, USFWS, COE, Oregon, Idaho, Colville Tribe and others participated in today's conference call chaired by Doug Baus, COE, and facilitated by Emily Plummer, DS Consulting. This summary is an official record, not a verbatim transcript.

**2. Dworshak Dam Operations**

Steve Hall, COE Walla Walla, walked TMT through the temperature graphs posted to today's agenda. Attachment 2a shows that water temperatures on the Snake declined dramatically on July 10 in response to a heavy storm that brought 1.5-2 inches of precipitation. The effect was especially strong at the Orofino and Clearwater monitoring stations, causing temperatures to drop from 70 degrees F a week and a half ago to 60 degrees F at present.

On July 6, water temperature modeling following the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend indicated that Dworshak discharges should be reduced from 10.5 kcfs to 7.5 kcfs to conserve water. Discharges have remained at 7.5 kcfs since July 6 and will likely remain constant for the next 5-7 days. There are two reasons for keeping Dworshak discharges at 7.5 kcfs to meet the end of August elevation target of 1,535ft as stated in the BiOp; and because model results indicate water temperatures will not exceed 67 degrees Fahrenheit within the modeled timeframe.

The second model run in Attachment 2b shows a further decline in water temperatures is expected as the deluge of cool rainwater moves through the river system. After that, temperatures at Orofino and Anatone are expected to rise slowly back to the 60-70 degree range, but not until the end of the modeling period. More precipitation will be coming to the Snake River basin this weekend, according to the 10-day weather forecast. Dworshak discharges will probably need to be increased to full powerhouse before the end of July to achieve the target elevation of 1,535 ft by August 31.

Russ Kiefer, Idaho, said FPAC is comfortable with the current Dworshak operation, as expressed in yesterday's conference call. Temperatures on the lower Salmon and White Bird rivers are following the same trend of around 60 degrees F at Orofino. This is good news for Snake River sockeye conversion rates this year.

### **3. Next TMT Meeting**

TMT will meet next in person at the COE division office on July 20.

<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Affiliation</i></b>
Tom Lorz	CRITFC/Umatilla
Charles Morrill	Washington
Tony Norris	BPA
Mary Mellema	BOR
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Trevor Conder	NOAA
Steve Hasaeker	USFWS
Doug Baus	COE
Erick Van Dyke	Oregon
Scott Richards	Snohomish PUD
Paula Calvert	ODEQ
Tory Hines	DSC
Laura Hamilton	COE
Michelle Yuen	COE
Lisa Wright	COE
Ann Setter	COE Walla Walla
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Sheri Sears	Colville Tribe
Steve Hall	COE Walla Walla